



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0255

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hiroaki HASHIGAYA et al.  
Title: REFORMER CONTROLLING APPARATUS  
Appl. No.: 09/776,855  
Filing Date: February 6, 2001  
Examiner: W. Langel  
Art Unit: 1754

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

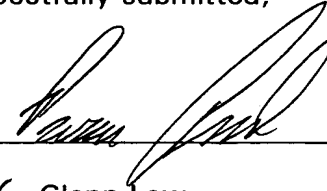
In response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2002, Applicants hereby elect the claims of **Group 1, claims 2-6 as well as linking claims 1 and 7**, for prosecution in the subject application.

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to have any non-elected claim(s) considered upon allowance of a linking claim as appropriate, and to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 24, 2002

By  REG. No. 40,888  
for Glenn Law  
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